

# P5 presentation

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## Retrofitting planning optimization

MSc in Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences  
(Building Technology Track)

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Main Mentor

Charalampos Andriotis

Second Mentor

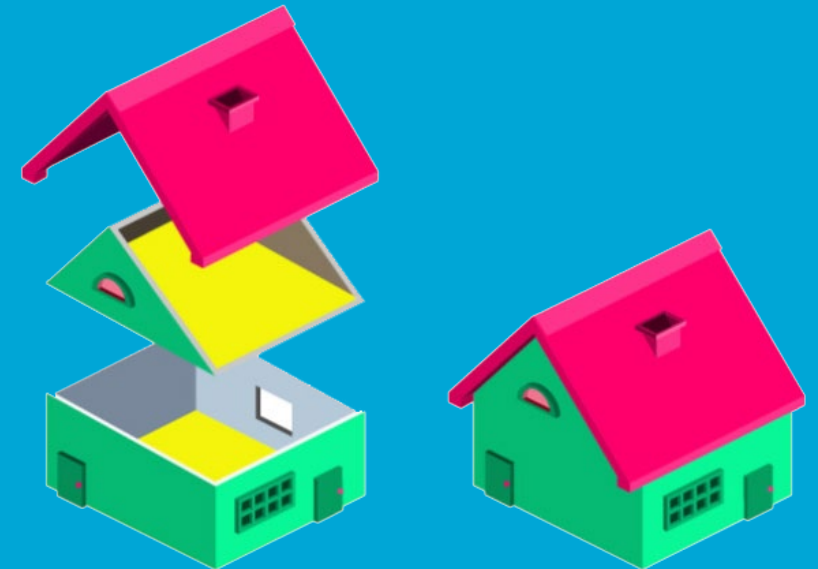
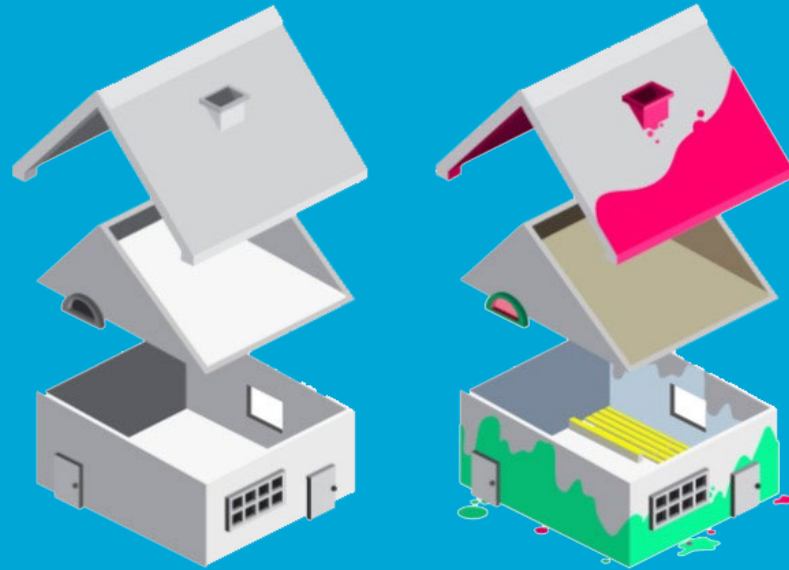
Michela Turrin

Consultants

Pablo Morato Dominguez ,

Lisa-Marie Mueller , Anna-Maria Koniari

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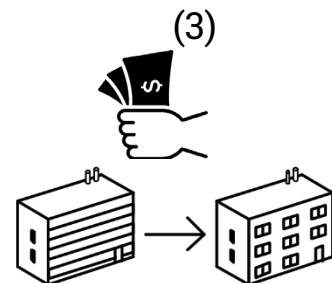


# Problem statement

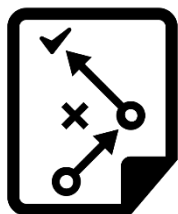
Buildings fleet  
is ageing (2)



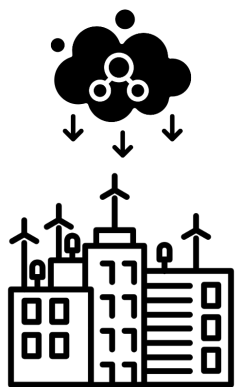
Economic reasons are  
some of the  
bottlenecks of  
performing retrofitting  
in residential buildings



Optimal  
Planning of  
Renovations  
has potential  
of increasing  
the rate and  
performance  
of the building  
stock



EU aims  
to decarbonize  
building stock (1)  
with renovations



(1) [https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-efficiency/energy-efficient-buildings/energy-performance-buildings-directive\\_en](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-efficiency/energy-efficient-buildings/energy-performance-buildings-directive_en)

(2) OVERVIEW | Decarbonising the non-residential building stock | BUILD UP (europa.eu)

(3) New step-by-step retrofitting model for delivering optimum timing



# Research Gap

*‘Not enough research has been  
conducted in Building Retrofitting  
Planning Optimization’*

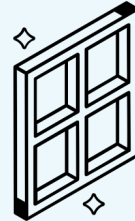
# Retrofitting measures

*Renovation or Retrofitting is the act of adding or replacement of building elements, aiming to better the condition of the building (1)*

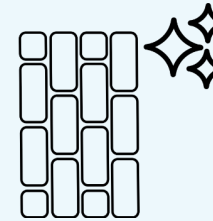
## Envelop measures



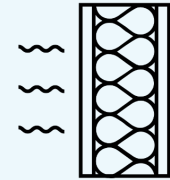
Change roof insulation



Change windows



Change ground floor insulation



Change exterior wall insulation

## Technical measures



Install RES



Change heating system



Add/Change mechanical ventilation



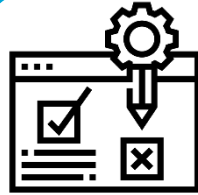
Add/Change cooling system

# Planning

“The main objective of a planned maintenance policy is to increase the performance of the building components and, at the same time, reduce the likelihood of problems that can occur during the service life” (2).

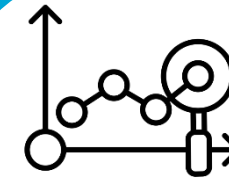


Predetermined

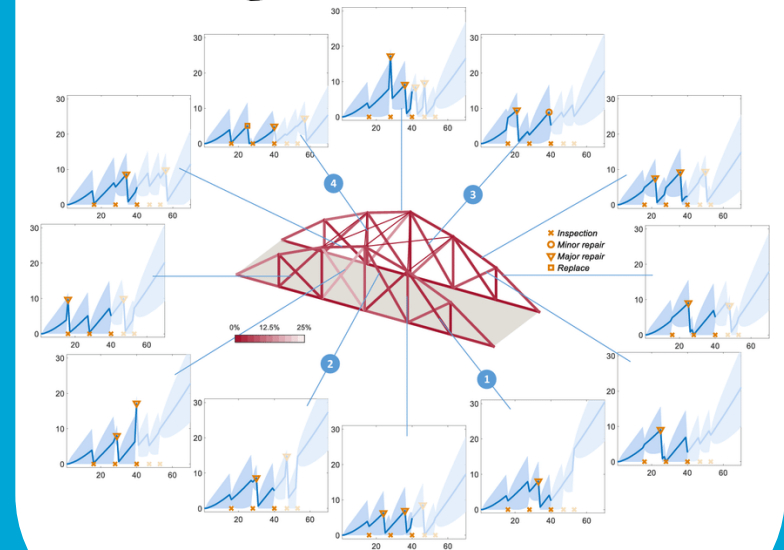


Condition based

Condition A	Condition B	Condition C	Condition D	Condition E
No visible degradation	Good	Slight degradation	Moderate degradation	Generalised degradation



Predictive



(2) C. Ferreira, A. Silva, J. de Brito, and I. Flores-Colen, “Maintainability of Buildings’ Envelope,” in *Springer Series in Reliability Engineering*, Springer Science and Business Media Deutschland GmbH, 2023, pp. 63–115. doi: 10.1007/978-3-031-14767-8\_4.

(3) Andriotis, C. P., & Papakonstantinou, K. G. (2018). *Managing engineering systems with large state and action spaces through deep reinforcement learning*. ResearchGate.  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328781547\\_Managing\\_engineering\\_systems\\_with\\_large\\_state\\_and\\_action\\_spaces\\_through\\_deep\\_reinforcement\\_learning](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328781547_Managing_engineering_systems_with_large_state_and_action_spaces_through_deep_reinforcement_learning)

# Goal

*Investigate a methodology for predictive retrofitting planning optimization*



# Problem statement

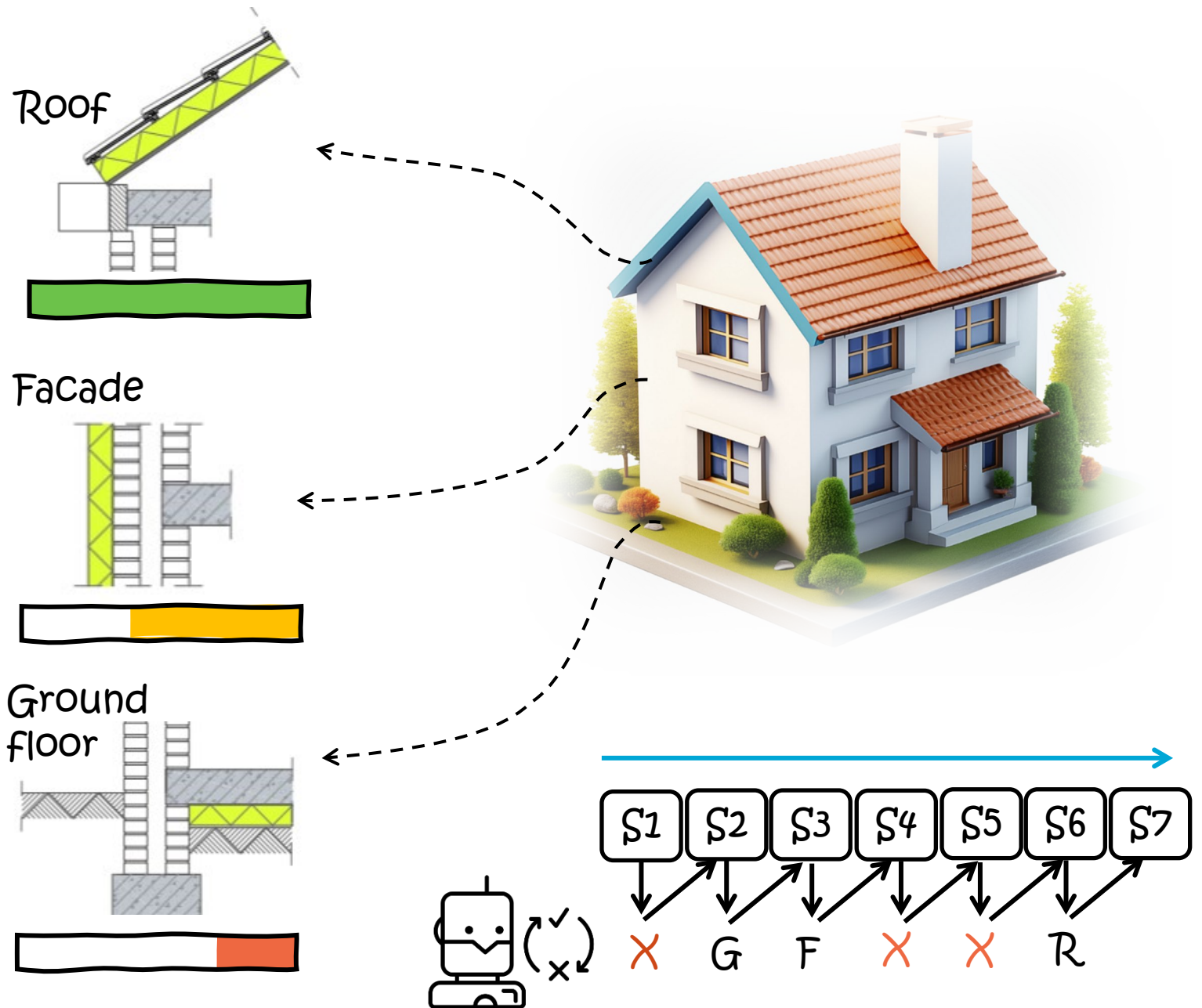
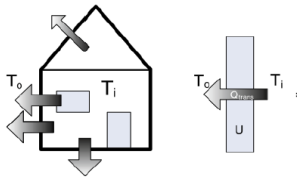
- Define an objective

$$\min \text{Cost} = \sum_{t=0}^{60} (IC_t + EC_t)$$

- $IC_t$  = investment cost of retrofitting measures [EUR];
- $EC_t$  = annual running energy costs [EUR/a]

- Consider elements that might degrade

Ageing insulation allows heat escape building more quickly raising the heating energy demand



# Algorithms for planning problems

SARSA

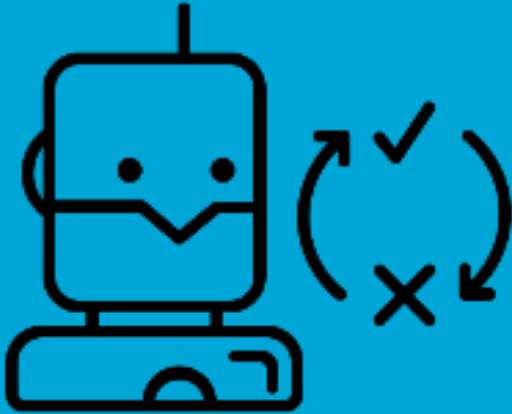
Q-Learning

Linear Programming

Policy Iteration

Value Iteration

Others...







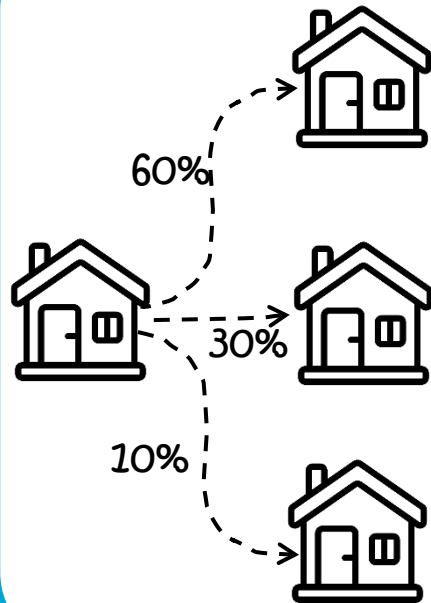
# Markov Decision Process

= Described by the tuple  $(S, A, T, R, g)$

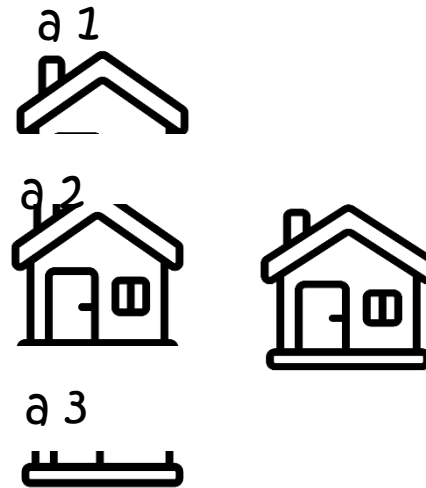
States



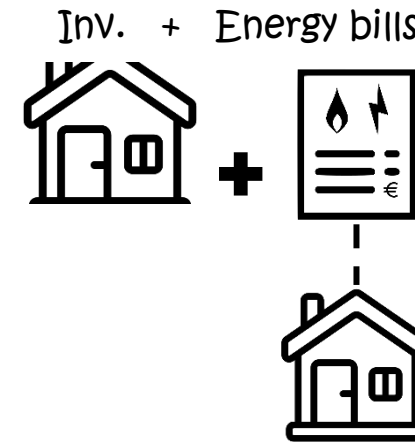
Transitions



Actions



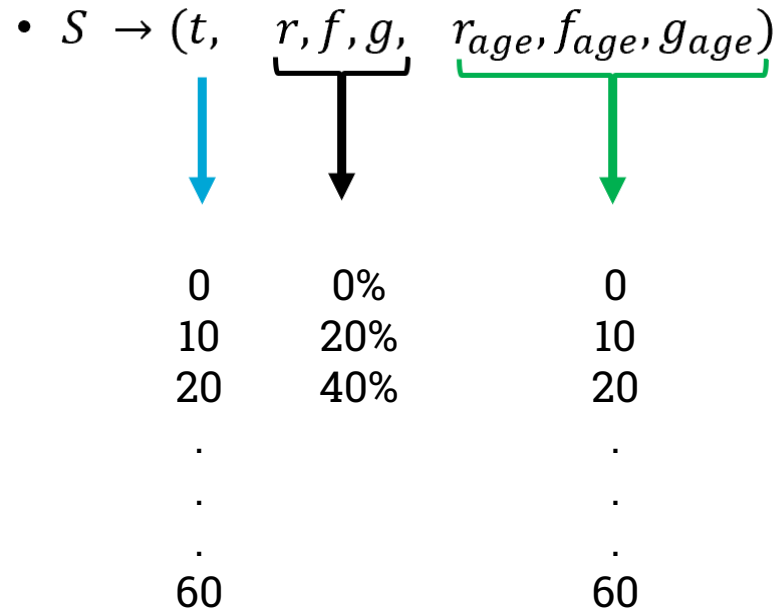
Rewards



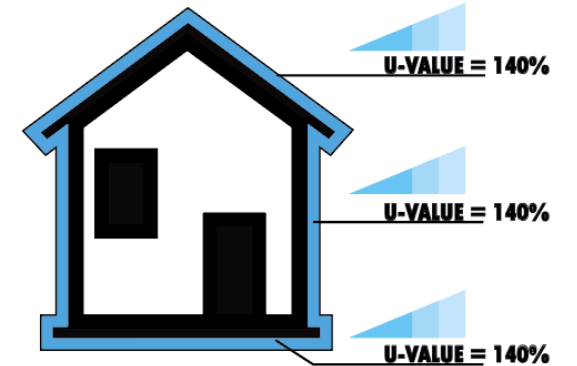
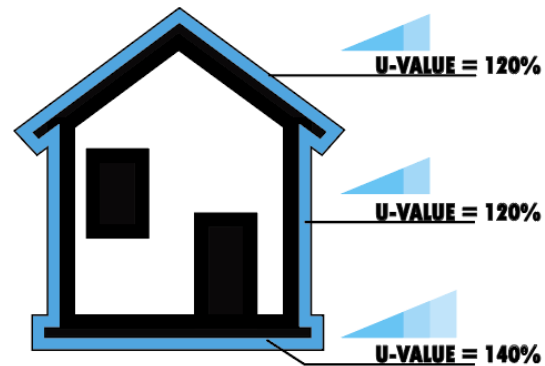
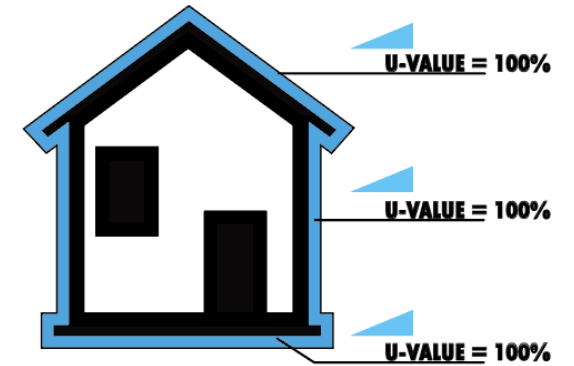
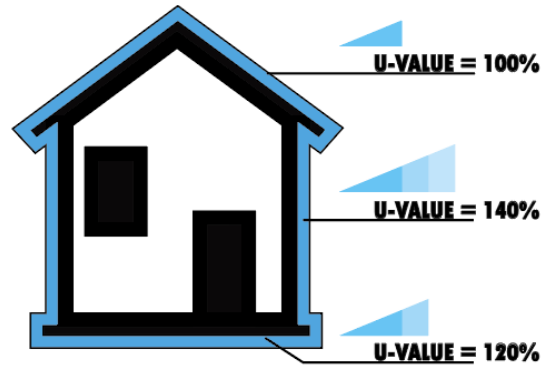
Discount Factor



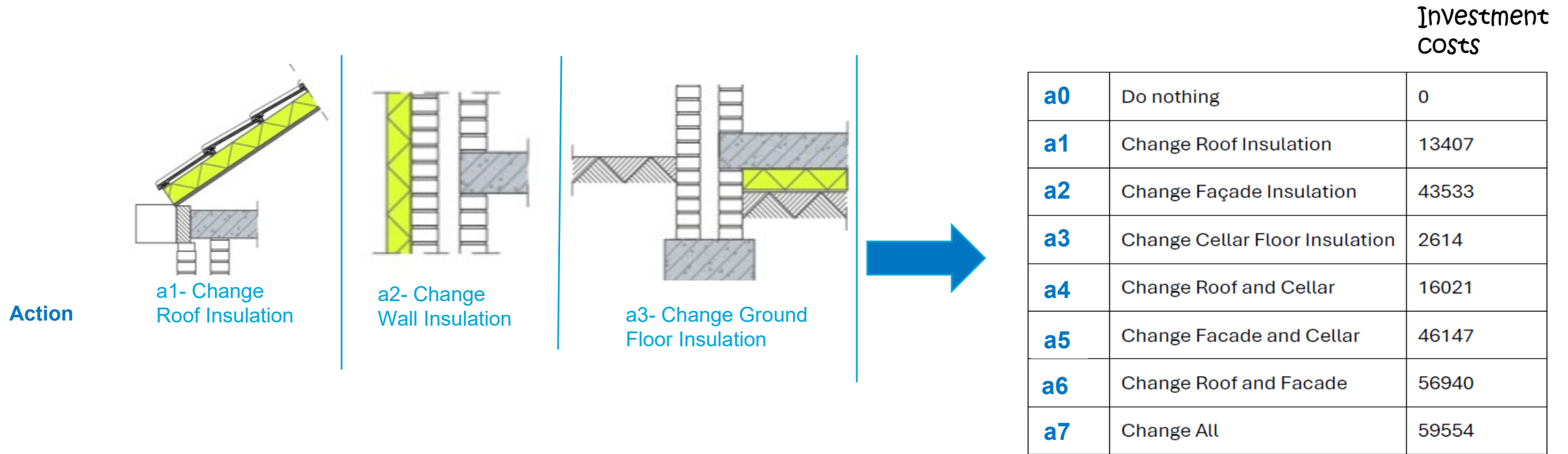
# States (S)



Total # of states: ~34K



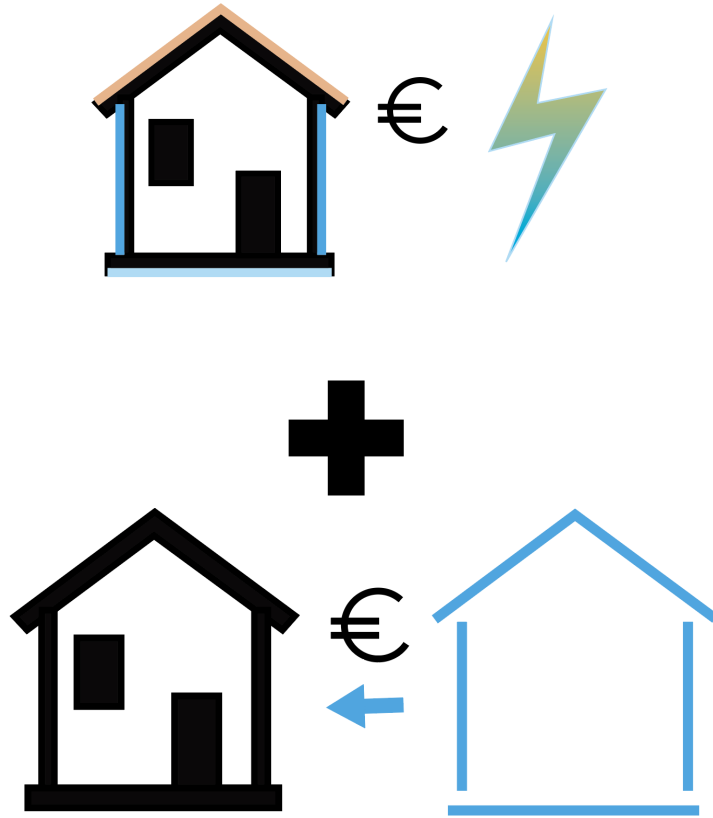
# Actions (A)



(1-3) M. Sewnath, "Title ' 'Towards Zero Carbon: A Comprehensive Evaluation of Conventional Renovation Strategies for Terraced Houses, Using Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) and Life Cycle Costing (LCC) to Enhance Decision-Making Support accompanied by the design of a tool Personal details."

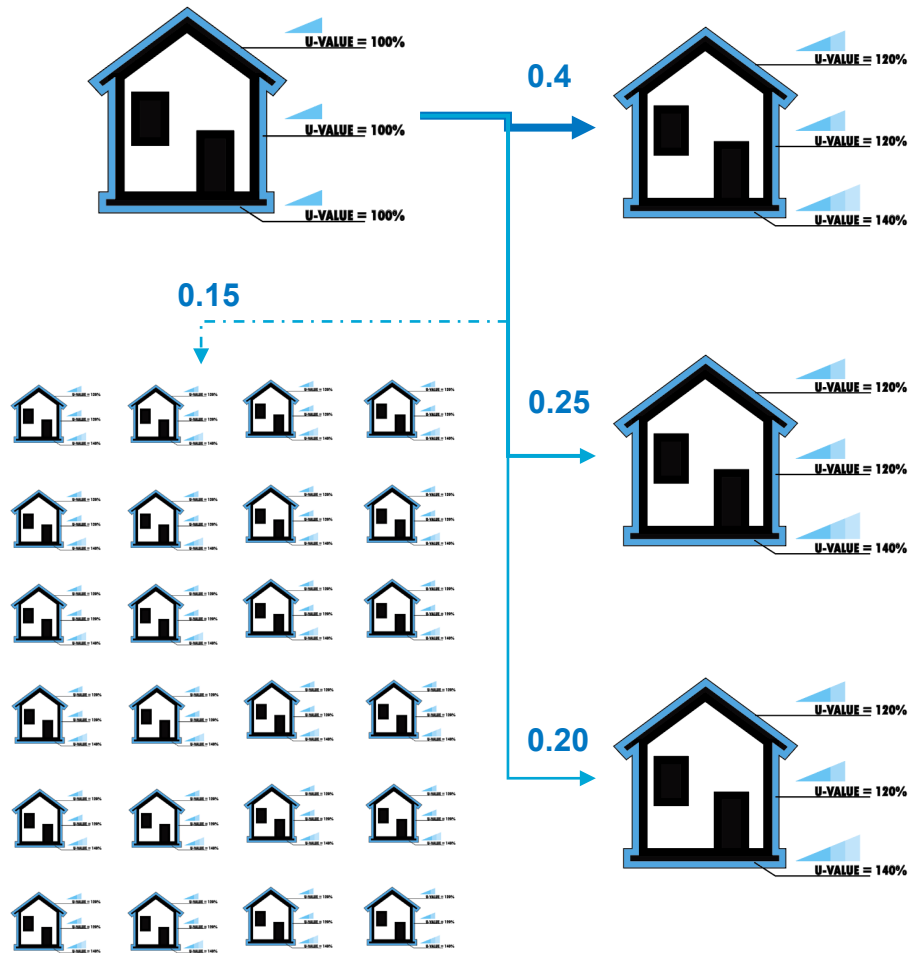
# Reward(R)

$$R(s, a)$$



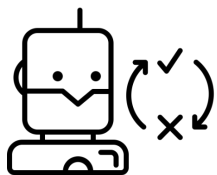
HOUSE STATE (ROOF DEG, FAÇADE DEG, GROUND FLOOR DEG)	Energy demand [kWh/m2]	Euros in bills	Rewards
(R: 0%, F: 0%, G: 0%)	165.72	14620.5	Euros in bills + a
(R: 0%, F: 0%, G: 20%)	166.13	14656.6	Euros in bills + a
(R: 0%, F: 0%, G: 40%)	166.54	14692.4	Euros in bills + a
(R: 0%, F: 20%, G: 0%)	169.17	14924.4	Euros in bills + a
(R: 0%, F: 20%, G: 20%)	169.57	14960.0	Euros in bills + a
.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.

# Transition probabilities (P)



- $P \rightarrow P(s'|s, a) \rightarrow P_r \cup P_f \cup P_g$
- Transitions are stochastic
- Transitions are non-stationary and they depend on the age factor

# Value Iteration



$$V^*(s) = \max_a Q^*(s, a) \quad Q^*(s, a) = \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a)[R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^*(s')]$$

State Value (S)	
	Value
S <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>1</sub>
S <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>
S <sub>3</sub>	V <sub>3</sub>
S <sub>4</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>

State-Action Value (S x a)			
	Actions →		
	a <sub>1</sub>	a <sub>2</sub>	a <sub>3</sub>
S <sub>1</sub>	Q <sub>11</sub>	Q <sub>12</sub>	Q <sub>13</sub>
S <sub>2</sub>	Q <sub>21</sub>	Q <sub>22</sub>	Q <sub>23</sub>
S <sub>3</sub>	Q <sub>31</sub>	Q <sub>32</sub>	Q <sub>33</sub>
S <sub>4</sub>	Q <sub>41</sub>	Q <sub>42</sub>	Q <sub>43</sub>

$V(S_3)$  ie. Expected Return from State  $S_3$  by following Policy  $\pi$

$Q(S_3, a_3)$  ie. Expected Return by taking Action  $a_3$  from State  $S_3$  and following Policy  $\pi$  after that

$$\pi^* = \arg \max_a Q(s, a)$$

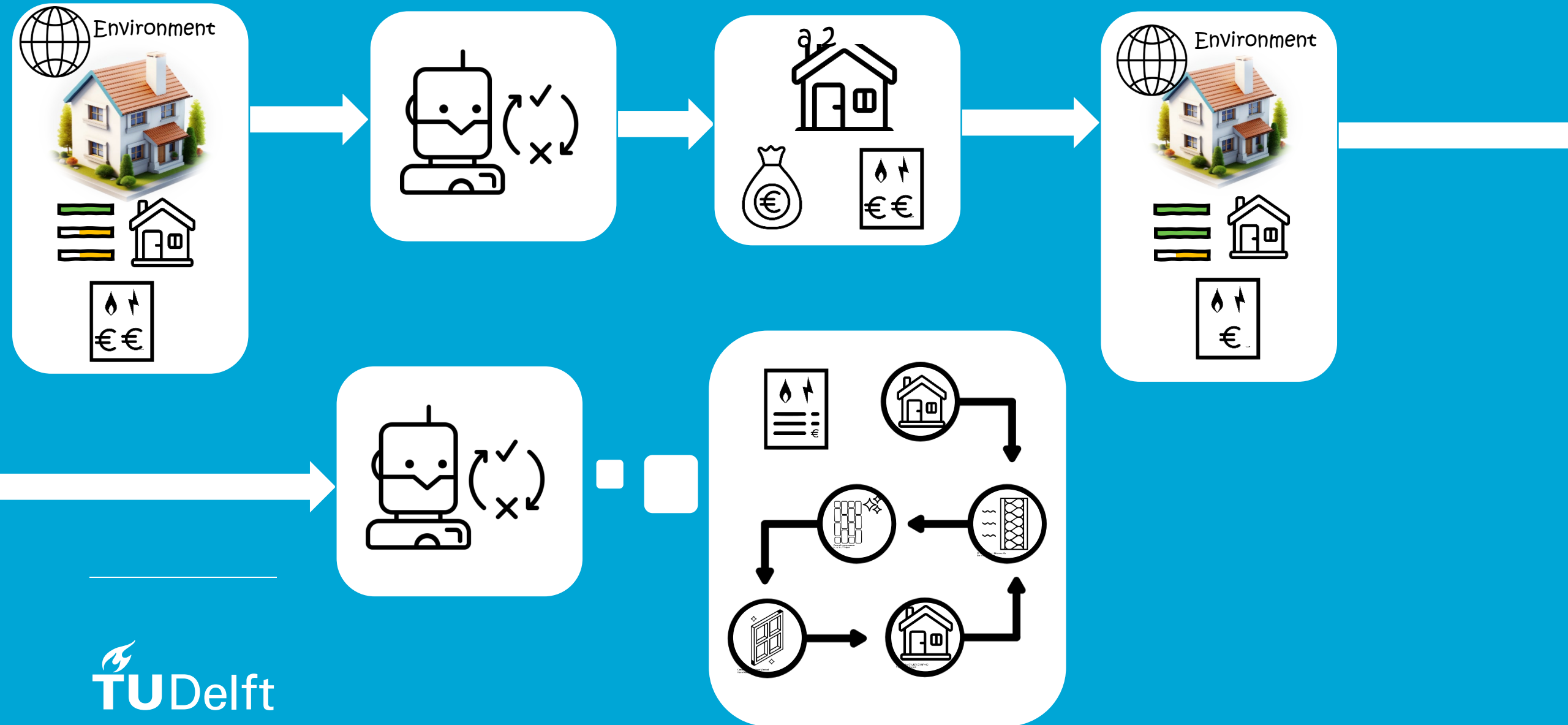
	Policy X			Policy Y			Policy Z		
Policy Table		a1	a2		a1	a2		a1	a2
	S1	0.4	0.6	S1	0.6	0.4	S1	0.0	1.0
	S2	0.2	0.8	S2	0.3	0.7	S2	0.0	1.0
	S3	0.7	0.3	S3	0.7	0.3	S3	1.0	0.0
	S4	0.6	0.4	S4	0.5	0.5	S4	1.0	0.0
	S5	0.5	0.5	S5	0.2	0.8	S5	0.0	1.0
State Value and State-Action Value		V	a1	a2		V	a1	a2	
	S1	1.6	S1	1.8	1.2	S1	2.4	S1	3.1
	S2	1.4	S2	1.5	1.3	S2	2.1	S2	3.3
	S3	1.7	S3	1.2	1.6	S3	2.5	S3	3.5
	S4	2.3	S4	2.1	1.8	S4	2.9	S4	3.0
	S5	0.9	S5	0.8	1.0	S5	1.9	S5	2.8

Optimal State Value and Optimal State-Action Value

The return  $G_t$  is the total discounted reward from time-step  $t$

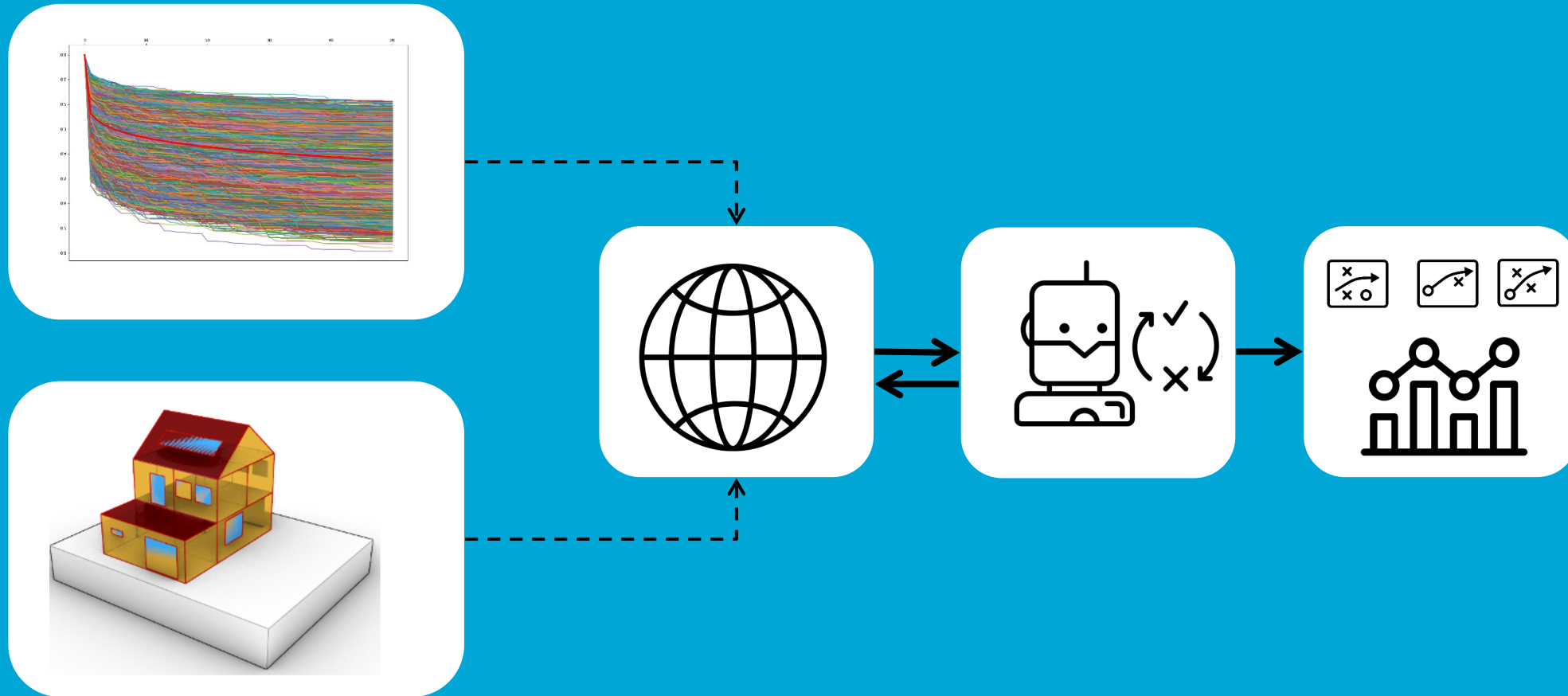
$$G_t = R_{t+1} + \gamma R_{t+2} + \dots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k R_{t+k+1}$$

# Optimization Methodology





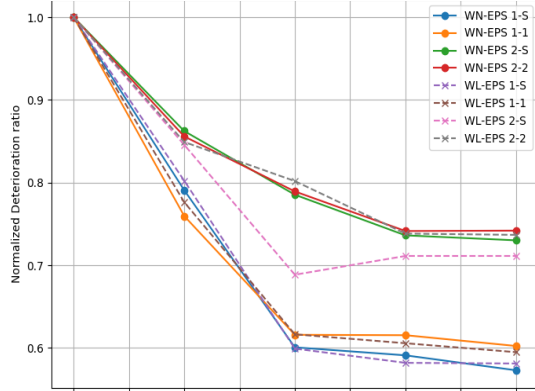
# Project Workflow



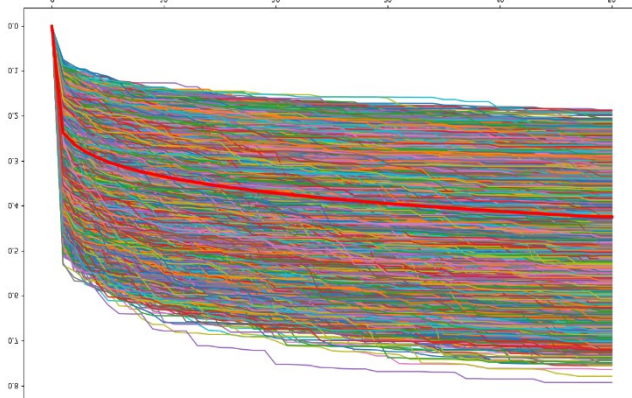
# Transition Probabilities Generation



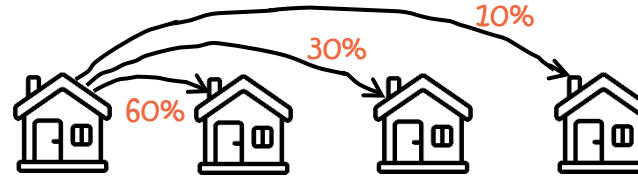
EPS insulation thermal resistance



Degradation scenarios generation



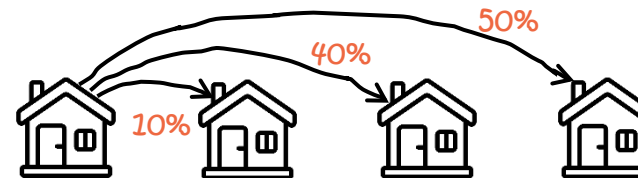
Transition probabilities year 0



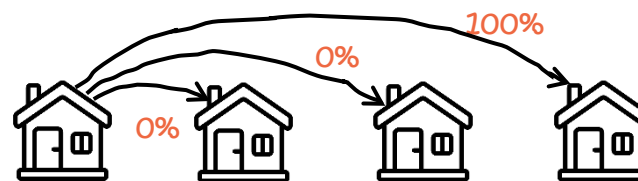
Transition probabilities year 10



Transition probabilities year 20



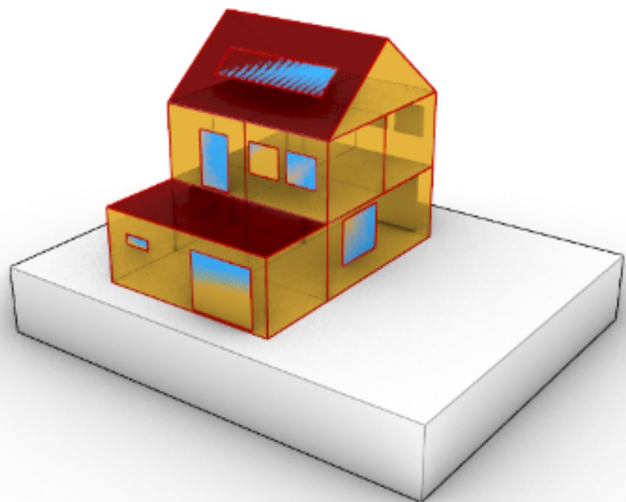
Transition probabilities year 30



Environment



# Building energy degradation modelling



X 27



165 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>



170 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>

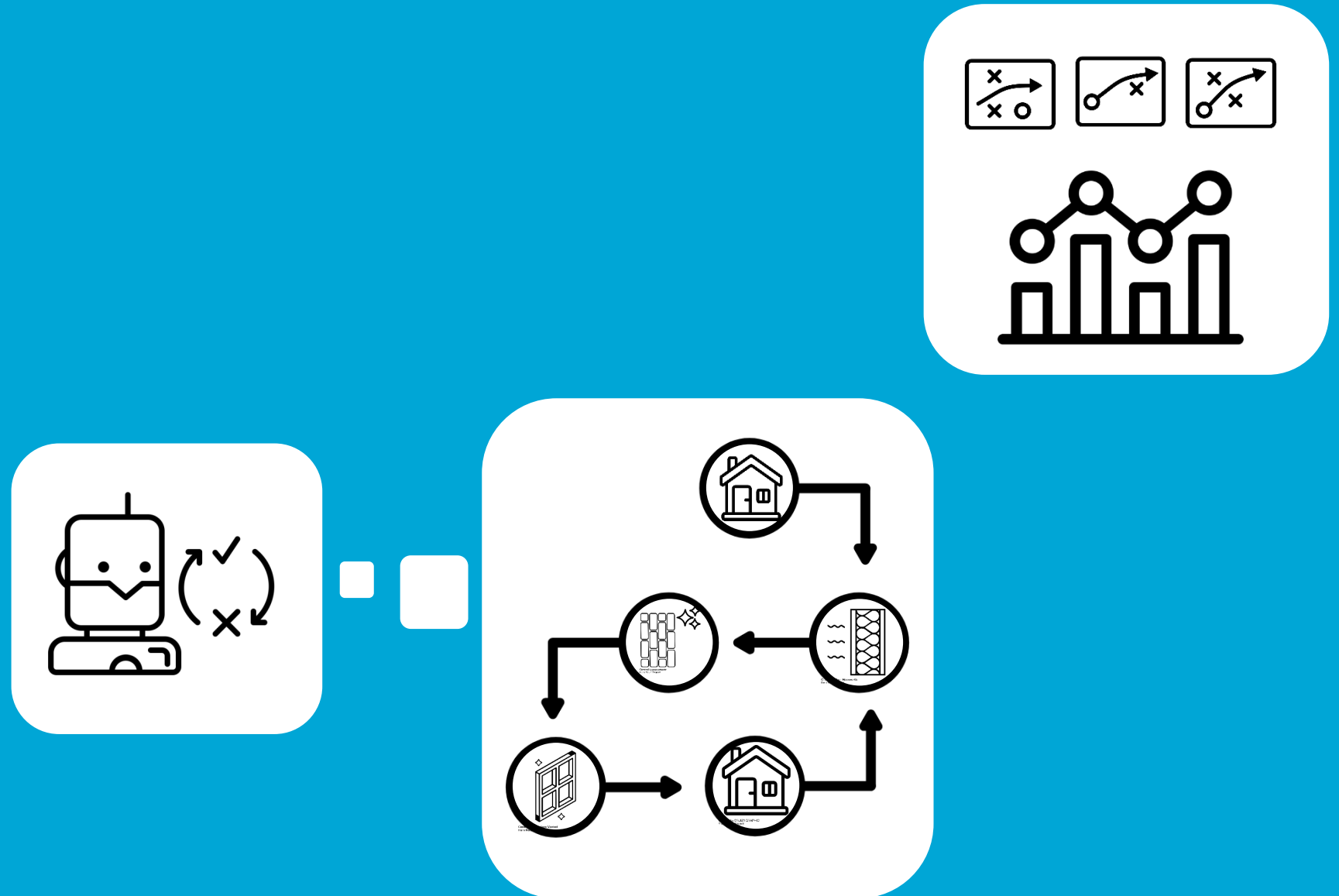


174 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>



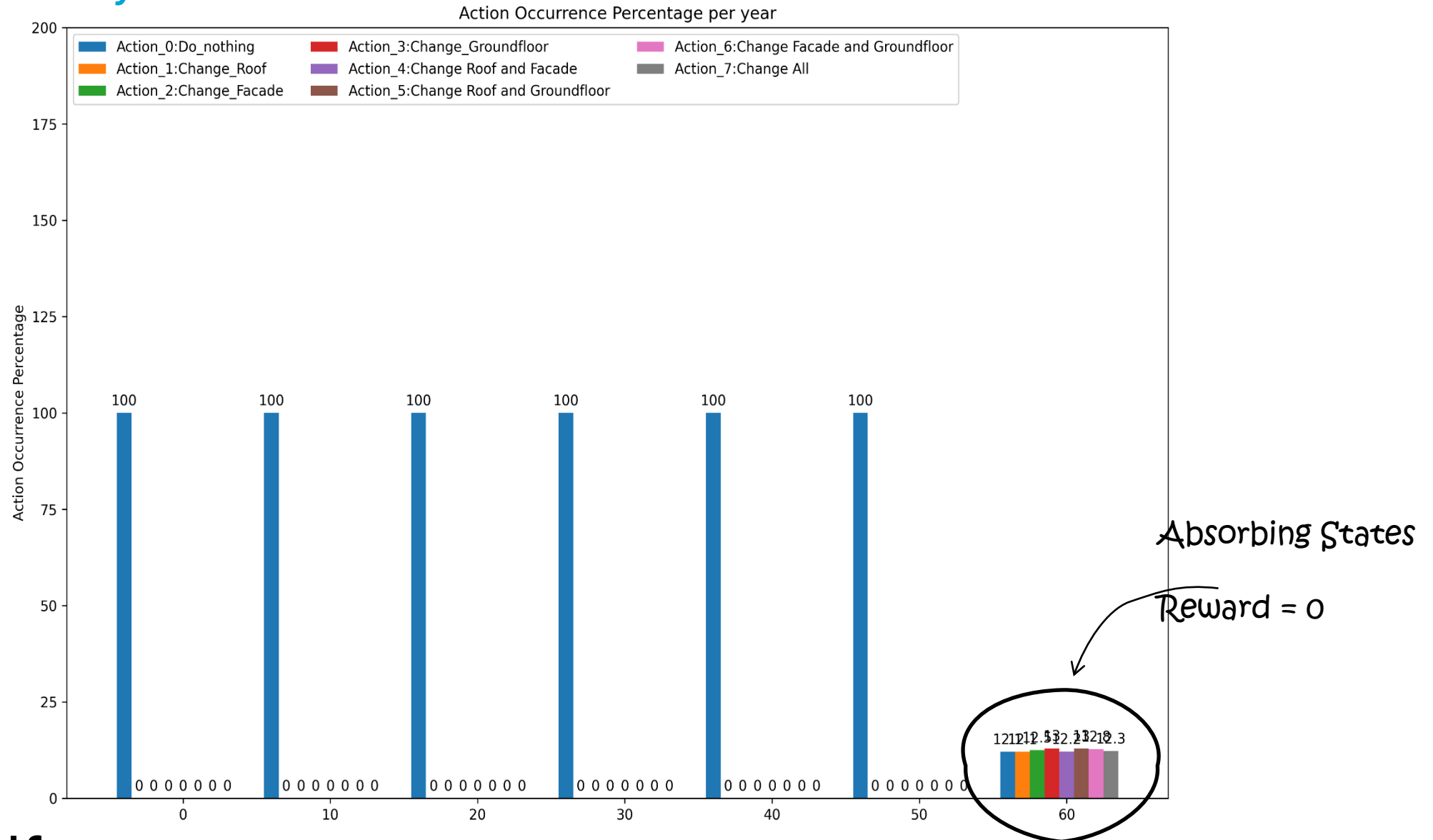


# Results



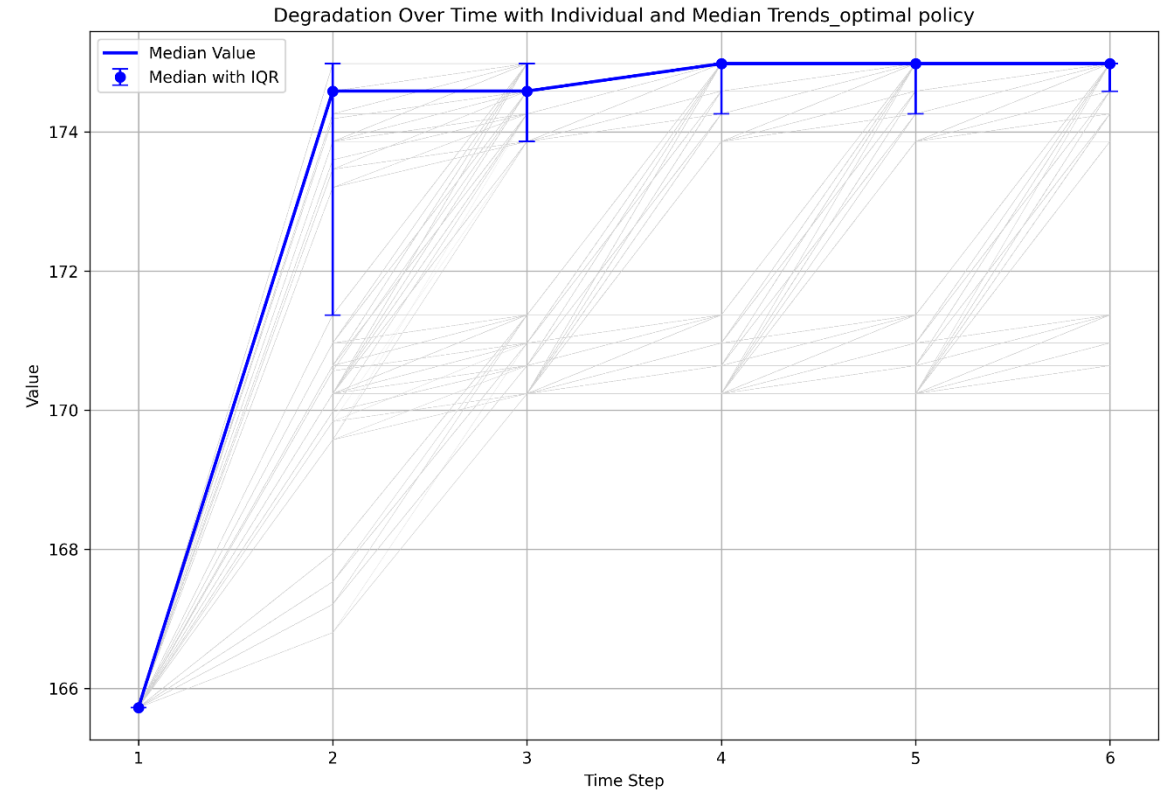
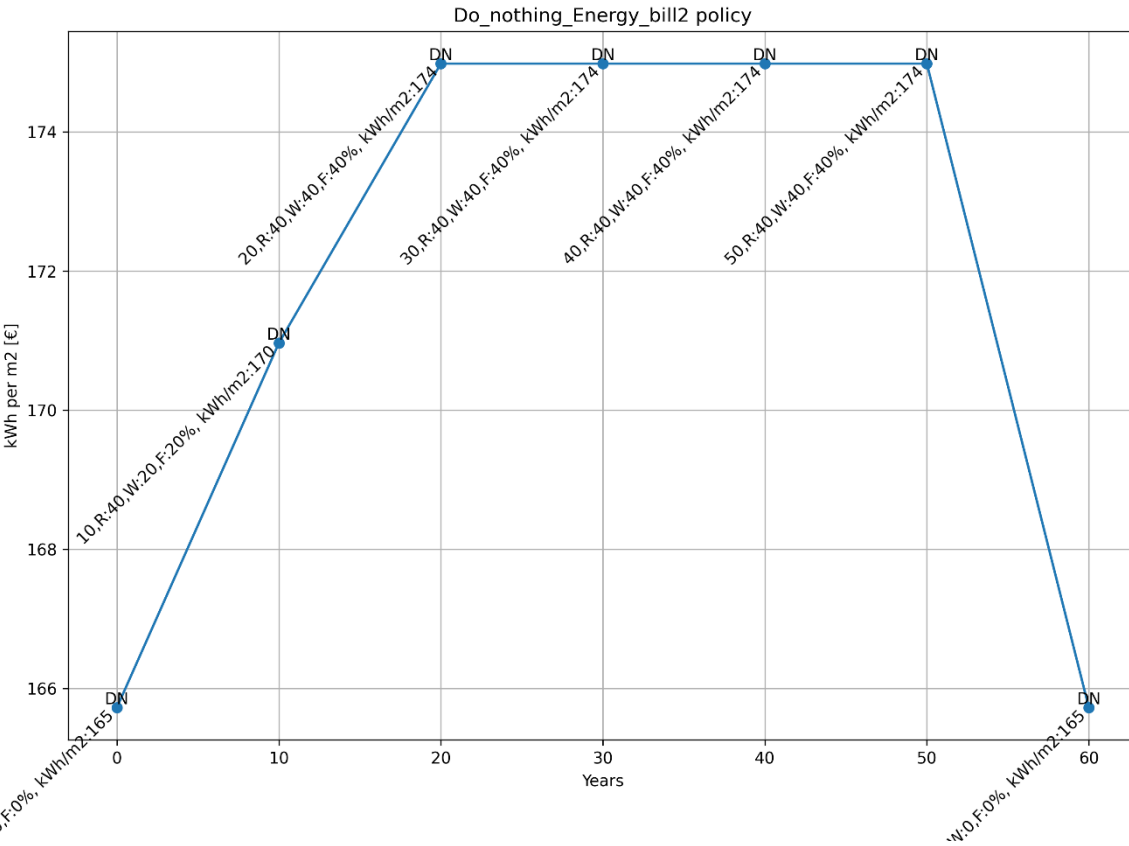


# Optimal Policy





# Optimal Policy Plots



- The costs of taking an action overpass the costs of energy bills

***EU** aims  
to achieve a fully  
decarbonized  
building stock by  
2050 (1)*



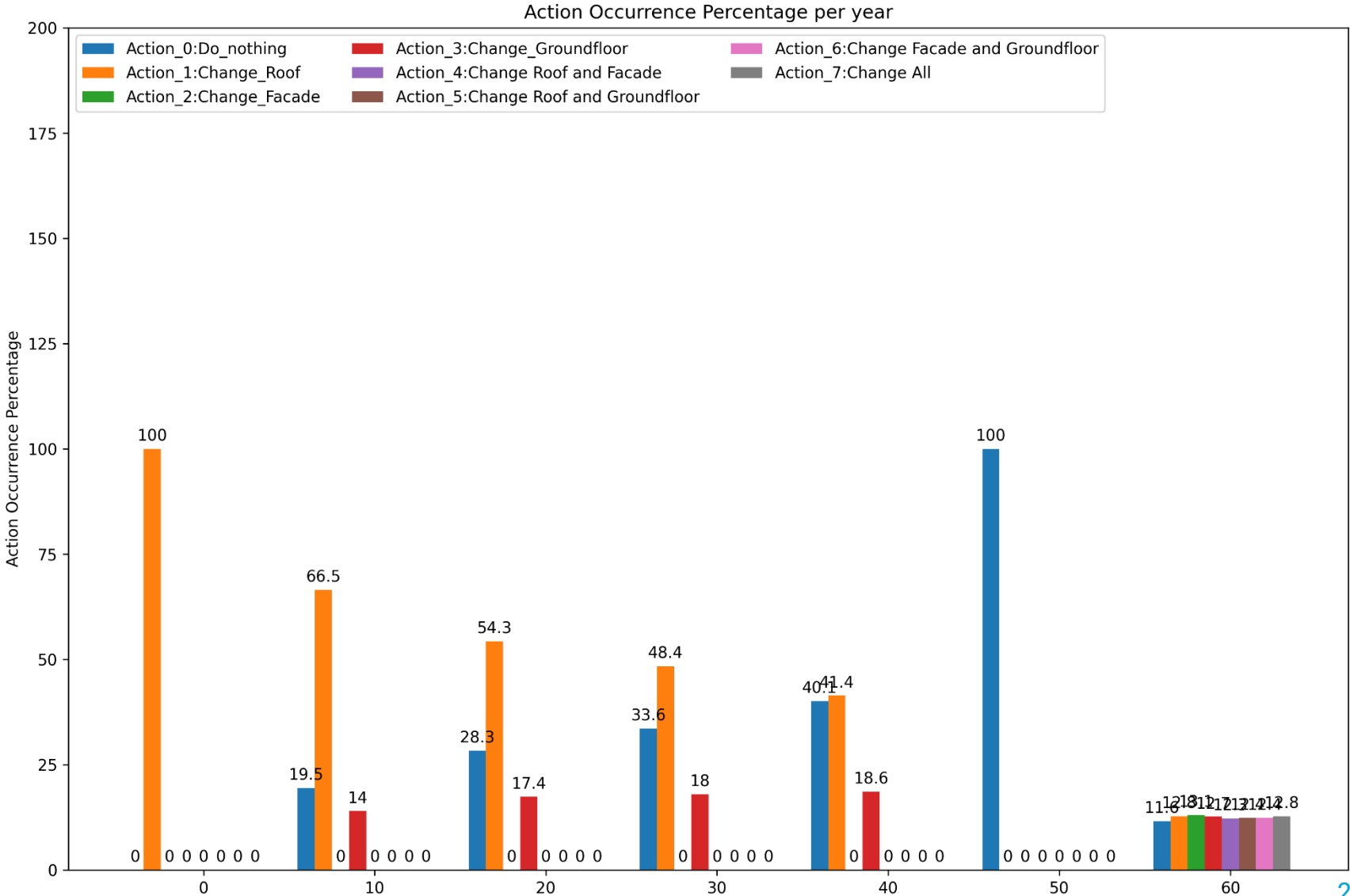
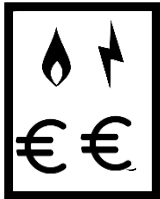
Economic reasons is  
one of the  
bottlenecks of  
**building owners**  
performing  
retrofitting in  
residential buildings  
(3)



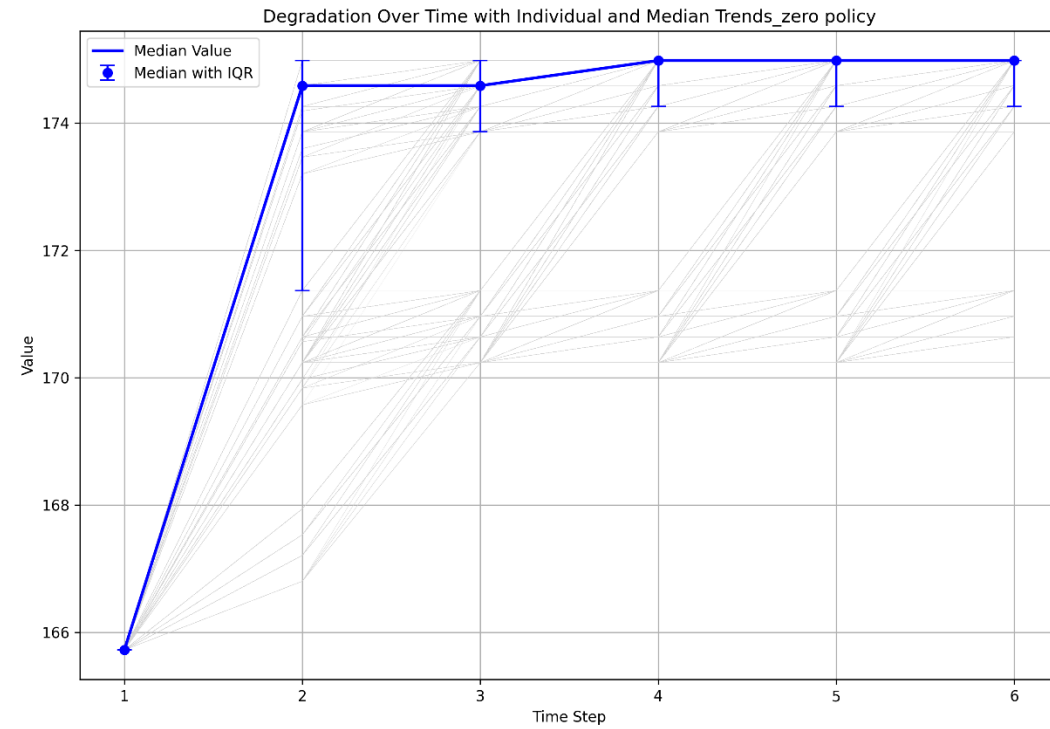
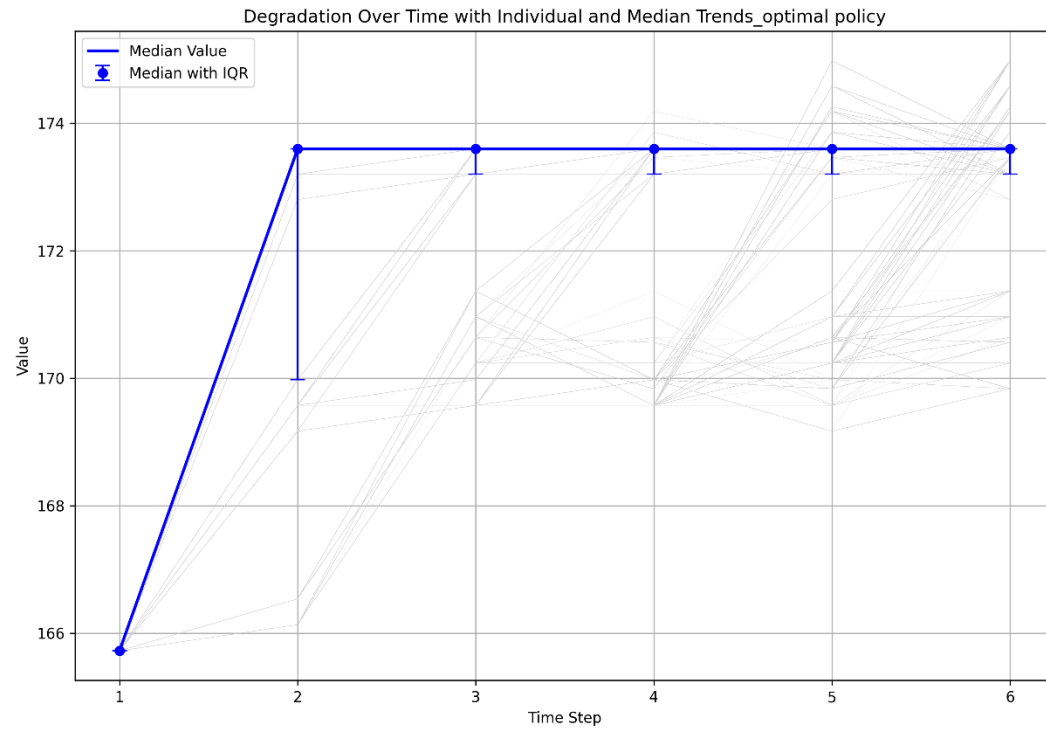
# Optimal policy from penalty



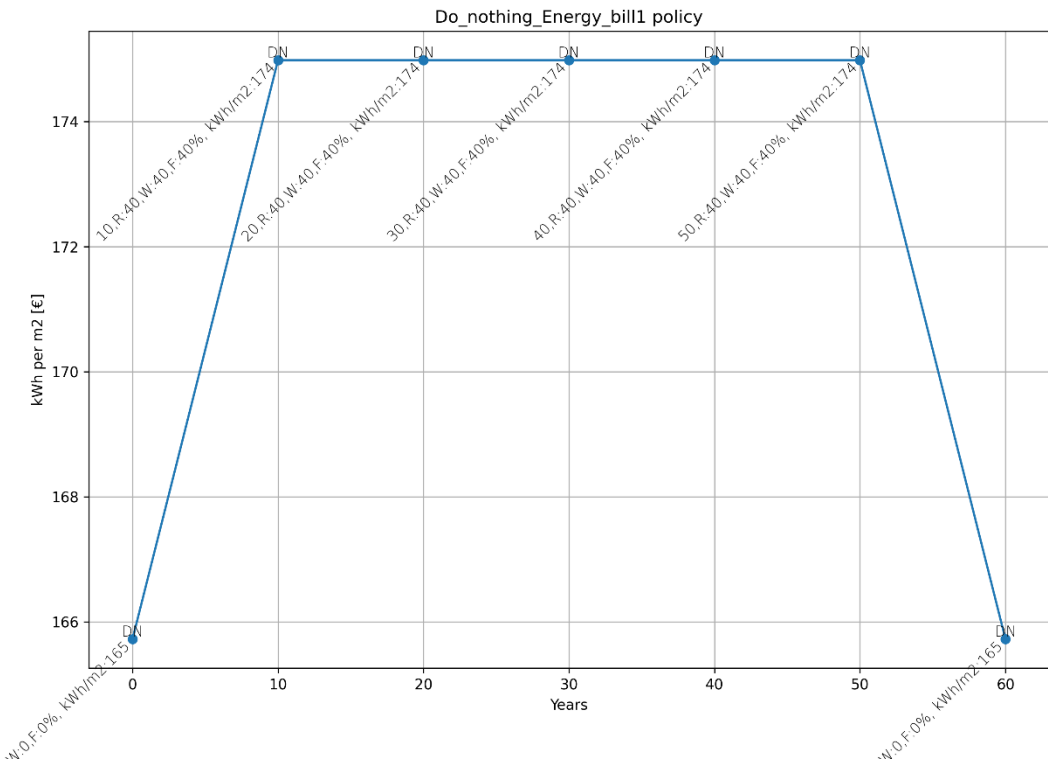
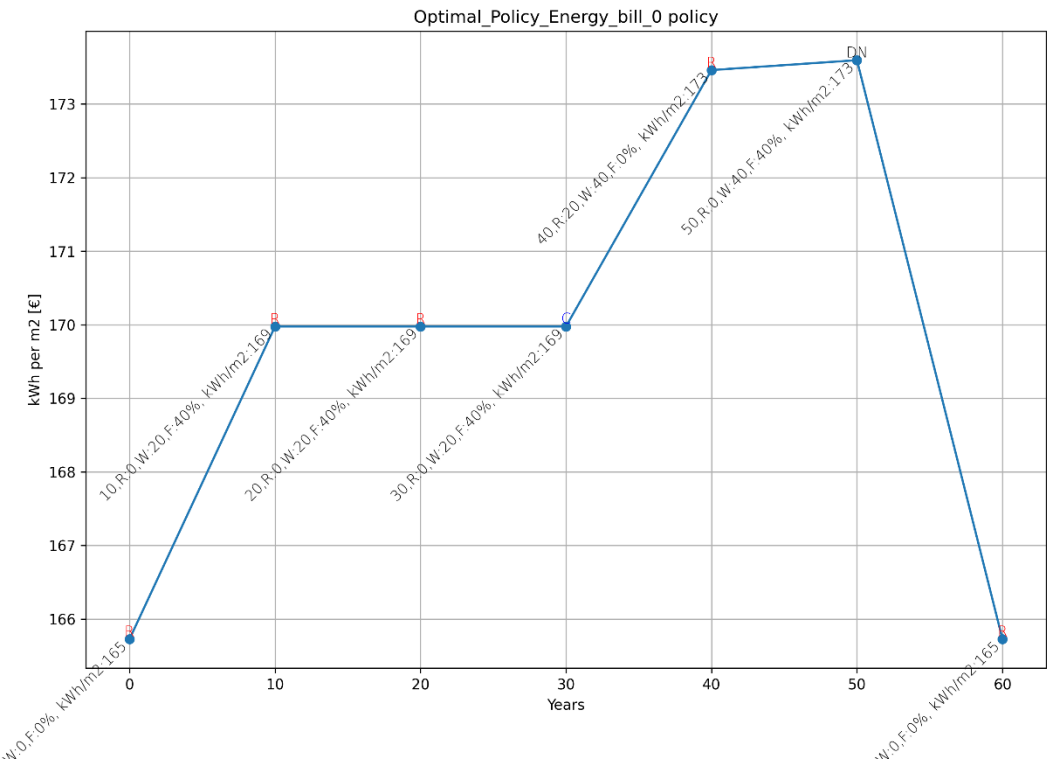
X 2 Energy bills



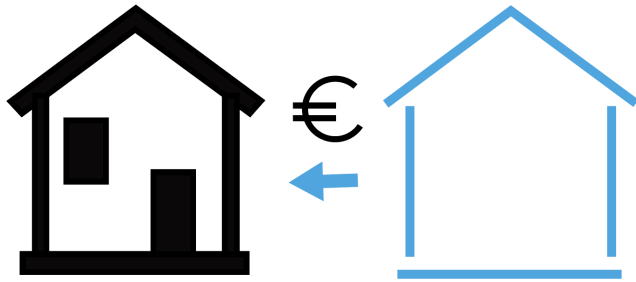
# Problem statement



# Problem statement

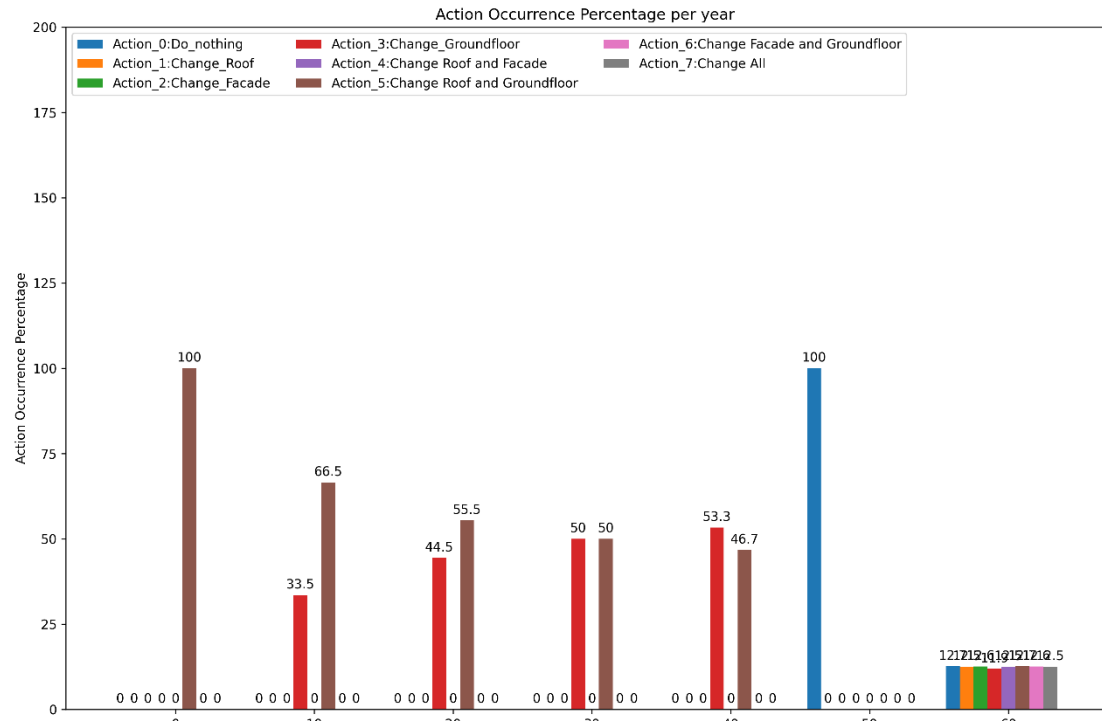
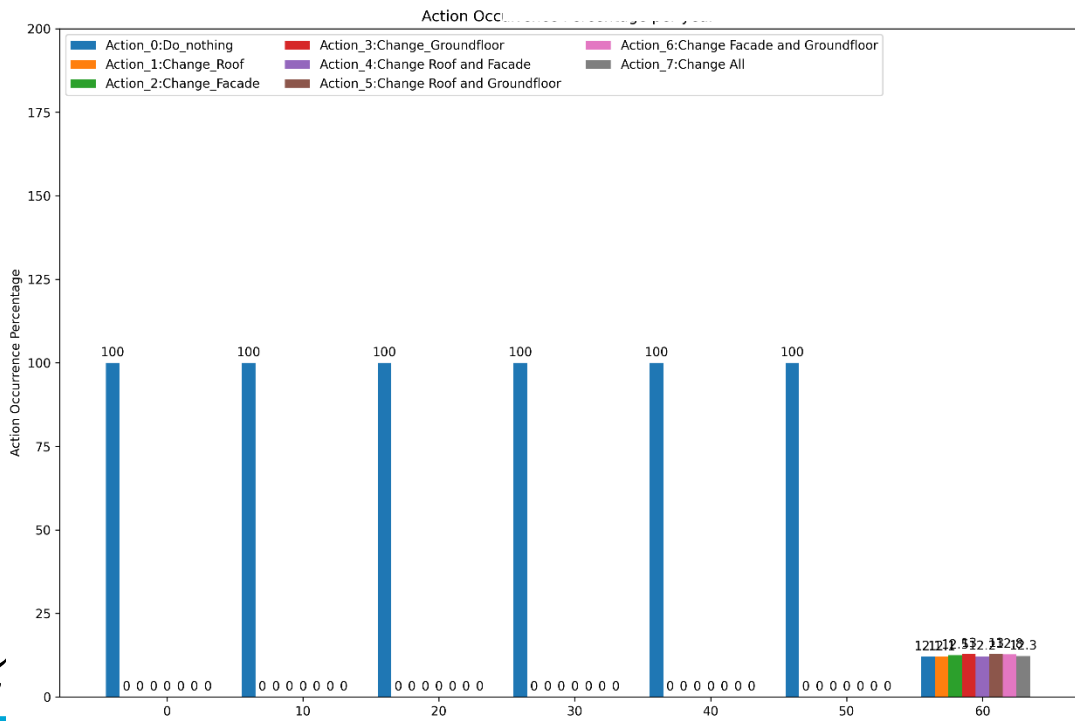
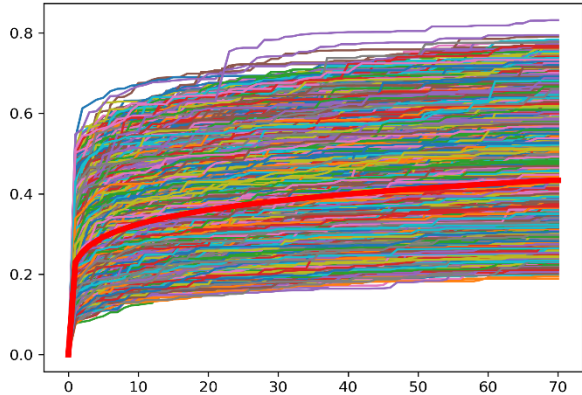
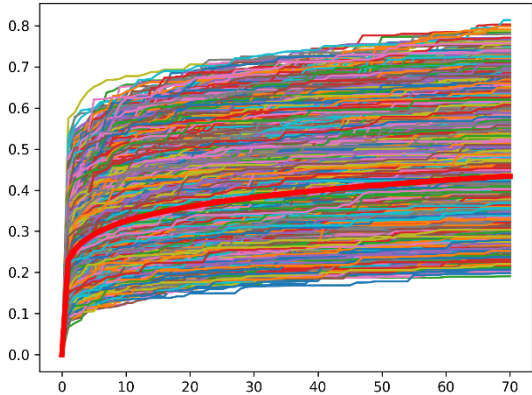
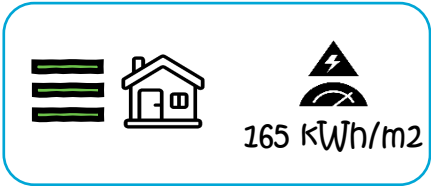


# Rewards



HOUSE STATE (ROOF DEG, FAÇADE DEG, GROUND FLOOR DEG)	Energy demand [kWh/m2]	Euros in bills	Rewards
(R: 20%, F: 40%, G: 40%)	174.25	15373.2	2 x Euros in bills + a
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
(R: 40%, F: 20%, G: 40%)	171.36	15118.3	Euros in bills + a
(R: 40%, F: 40%, G: 0%)	174.18	15367.0	2 x Euros in bills + a
(R: 40%, F: 40%, G: 20%)	174.58	15402.1	2 x Euros in bills + a
(R: 40%, F: 40%, G: 40%)	174.98	15436.9	2 x Euros in bills + a

# Comparison between 5% and 60% energy demand change



- Model generated indicative policies
- Provided insight of future aspects of the methodology to be reformed
  - States , Actions , Transitions
  - Building Degradation model simulation
- Indicated future research areas
  - Building degradation over time
  - Correlation between physical and thermal performance degradation of components
  - Reverse engineering for building planning optimization

## Conclusions

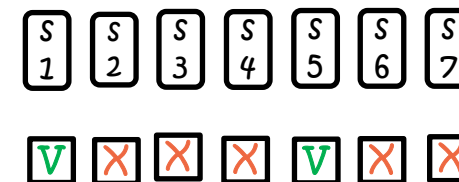
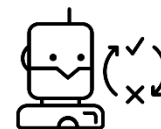
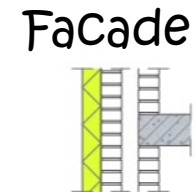
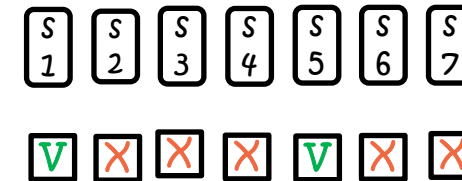
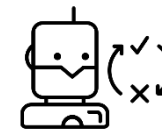
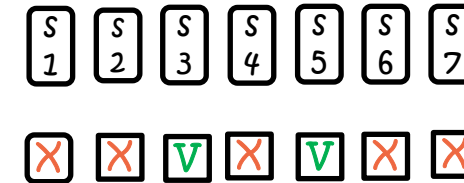
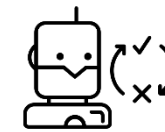
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# “Which algorithm should we consider for solving this problem?”

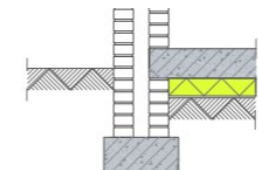
## Value Iteration

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VI will give the optimal <b>value</b> function given enough iterations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not good with big <b>state</b> and action spaces</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Straightforward</b> and <b>easy</b> to implement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Computationally demanding</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Model based approach</b> meaning that requires model of the problem with all aspects involved</li> </ul>

## MARL



Ground floor





# “How do we formulate the retrofitting planning problem as an MDP (Markov Decision Process) problem?”

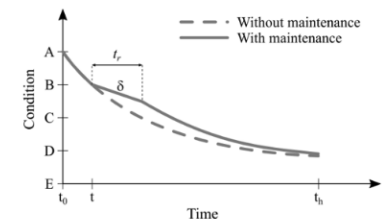
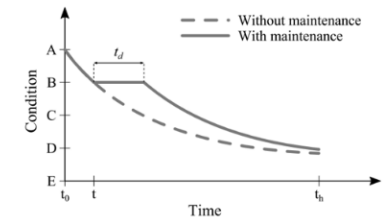
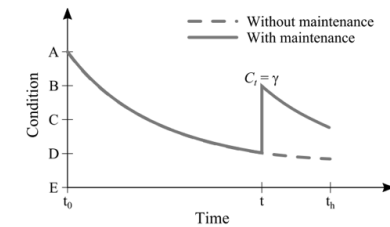
## States

- Physical state of material
- Energy demand

## Actions

- Minor (superficial fixes)
- Major (Change insulation)
- Deep maintenance (Apply changed to bring the building to nZEB level)

## Transitions



### Sub Question 3

# **“How can we simulate the scenario of the building components (energy) degradation?”**

- Choose a building study case
- Focus on the components that usually affect the most the energy performance of the building (roof, façade, ground floor, windows, HVAC systems).
- Consider infiltration (influx of air from cracks)
- Consider external and other factors that might affect the performance
- Simulate all major scenarios and store them in data frames.

#### Sub Question 4

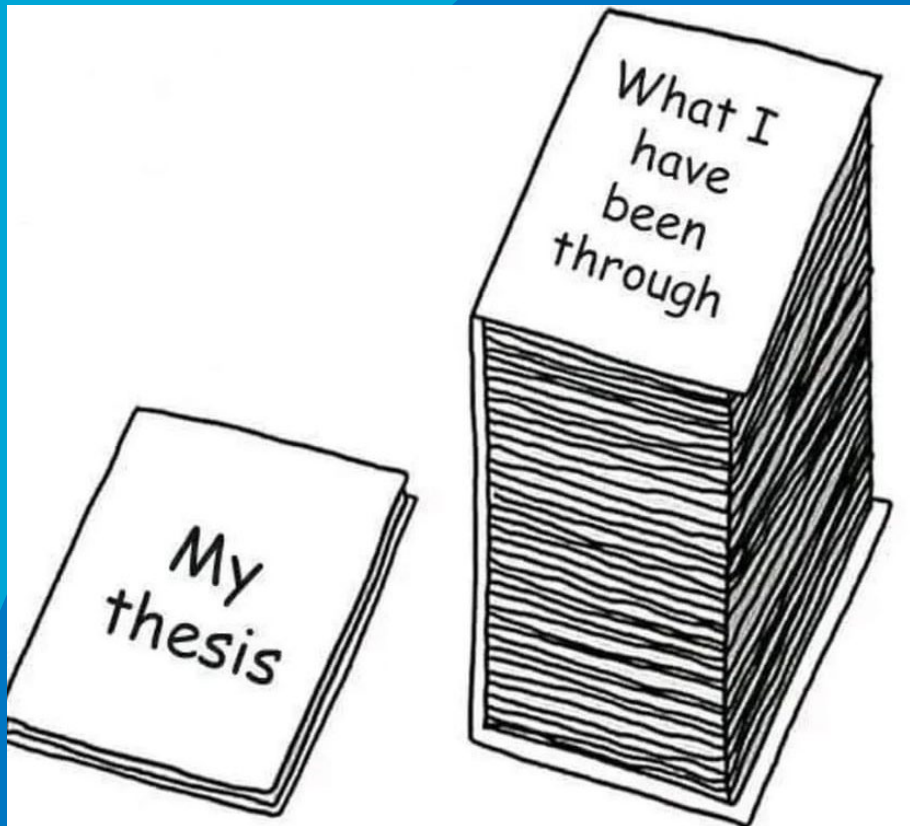
## “How do we validate the model?”

- We can do a sensitivity analysis by experimenting with rewards and policies to understand the dynamics of the environment and the policies that is giving
- Real data are needed to compare against the generated policies

## Main Question

# “How can we optimize staged retrofitting planning?”

1. Define the objective function
2. Analyze important aspects based on the objective function (energy bills, retrofitting measures)
3. Analyze the factors influencing the building performance (components, infiltration, climate)
4. Simulate the different building performance scenarios
5. Use a Deep RL method



Thank you for your attention